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SUBJECT: YEAR END RESULTS OF AUC PEACE PROCESS

Summary

1. (U) In 2003 and 2004, the GOC demobilized over 3,600 paramilitaries from the AUC. They turned in well over 1,000 weapons and other supplies, which were inventoried by the OAS verification mission. 2005 will be the most challenging year for the peace process; the GOC is committed to demobilizing the rest of the AUC, facilitating its successful participation in the government's reinsertion program, and establishing a legal framework for those who are guilty of serious crimes. End summary.

Almost 3,000 Demobilized in 2004

2. (U) In 2004, the GOC demobilized 2,627 members of the United Self Defense Forces (AUC), including five separate blocs and senior commander Salvatore Mancuso and bloc commander Ever Veloza Garcia (alias Hernan Hernandez). The OAS verification mission oversaw and inventoried the weapons turned in to the GOC:

- November 25: 452 paramilitaries from the Bananero Bloc turned in 245 rifles, 2 machine guns, 6 grenade launchers, 4 mortars, 4 semi-automatic machine guns, 2 carbines, 6 shot guns, 38 pistols, 44 revolvers, 232 grenades, 1 flare gun, 41,016 bullets, 482 camouflage shirts, 439 camouflage pants, 147 travel supplies, 262 weapons carriers, 61 radios, 2 base radios, and miscellaneous accessories.

- December 4: 47 paramilitaries from southern Magdalena Department turned in 26 rifles, 3 semi-automatic machine guns, 1 machine gun, 1 hand-made mortar, 6 pistols, 3 revolvers, 1 shot gun, and numerous rounds of ammunition, grenades, and radios.

- December 9: 147 paramilitaries in Cundinamarca Department turned in 104 rifles, 3 machine guns, 3 grenade launchers, 4 shot guns, 2 carbines, 18 pistols, 6 mortars, ammunition, miscellaneous, radios, and explosives

- December 10: 1,425 paramilitaries from the Catatumbo Bloc turned in 983 rifles and shotguns, 10 machine guns, 19 semi-automatic machine guns, 25 grenade launchers, 21 mortars, 47 pistols, and 15 revolvers, 556 hand grenades, 201 mortar grenades, 183 rifle grenades, 3 smoke grenades, 268 MGL grenades, numerous radios, and explosives

- December 18: 556 paramilitaries from the Calima Bloc turned in 316 long arms, 62 short arms, 15 semi-automatic machine guns, 14 pistols, 33 revolvers, 27 support weapons, 1,008 miscellaneous supplies, 2,500 chains, 83 hand grenades, 51 40mm grenades, 10 mortars, 2 rifle grenades, 51 radios, uniforms, and travel supplies.

Total demobilized: 2,627

2003: 1,000 Demobilized

3. (U) The GOC held two small demobilizations in 2003. The first, on November 25, involved 874 members of the AUC's Cacique Nutibara Bloc in Medellin. Of the entire block, 17 have died, 34 are serving time in jail mostly for non-pardonable crimes committed before demobilization, and the government has lost track of four. The remaining 819 are participating in the GOC's reinsertion program and being tracked by the electronic monitoring and evaluation system. Second, on December 7, 150 paramilitaries of the independent Self Defense Forces of Ortega in Cauca Department demobilized. They are not participating in the reinsertion program, but instead the GOC is building roads in the region and providing vocational training. These demobilizations occurred before the OAS agreed to verify the process. For this reason, an inventory of weapons turned in is not available.

2005: A Bigger Challenge

14. (U) The AUC agreed to demobilize its entire structure by the end of 2005. The GOC has three important, costly tasks to complete in 2005:

1. Demobilize the rest of the AUC: the AUC claims to have 20,000 members, and the GOC has based its budget needs on this figure, which leaves approximately 16,000 paramilitaries to be demobilized. Post estimates the AUC had between 12,000 and 15,000 before the demobilizations began, but paramilitary family members and support networks will increase the number to demobilize.

2. Reinsertion: paramilitaries who demobilize and are not guilty of serious crimes join the GOC's reinsertion program, which offers job training, basic humanitarian assistance, and employment. The GOC is responsible for successfully moving them through the program and turning them into productive citizens. Otherwise, former paramilitaries are likely to return to a criminal lifestyle.

3. Legal framework: the GOC needs to establish a legal framework to hold accountable former paramilitaries guilty of major crimes. It is considering calling an extraordinary congressional session in February to debate the Law of Justice and Reparations, which calls for -- among other things -- mandatory jail time, confession, reparations to victims, and cooperation with authorities.

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